

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.: 10/502,426  
Applicant(s): David M. Chipman, et al.  
Filed: January 27, 2006  
Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING CHIRAL AROMATIC  $\alpha$ -HYDROXY  
KETONES USING 2-HYDROXY-3-OXOACID SYNTHASE

Docket No.: 040990/281003  
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
37 CFR § 1.115**

Sir:

In conjunction with the concurrent filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), please enter this Preliminary Amendment as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.